

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER: 1042-129
SUBJECT: Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture	DATE: February 7, 2000	
	OPI: Office of Chief Economist	

1 PURPOSE/SCOPE

a The Commission on 21st Century Production Agriculture (herein after referred to as the "Commission") was established by Subtitle G of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform (FAIR) Act of 1996 (Pub. L. No. 104-127). This Departmental Regulation serves as Charter for the Commission.

b The purpose of this Commission is to:

(1) Review comprehensively changes in the condition of production agriculture since April 4, 1996 and the extent to which changes are due to the Agricultural Market Transition Act (Title I of the FAIR Act of 1996).

(2) Review comprehensively the future of production agriculture in the United States and the appropriate role of the Federal Government in support of production agriculture.

(3) Develop specific legislative recommendations to achieve the appropriate future relationship of the Federal Government with production agriculture as identified in (2) above.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELIATION

a The Commission shall terminate on submission of the final report required by the establishing legislation, as provided in Section 188, Subtitle G of Pub. L. No. 104-127.

b This charter will expire 2 years from the date of filing.

c Departmental Regulation 1042-129, dated January 16, 1998, is hereby cancelled.

3 MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

a The Commission shall be composed of 11 members.

b Members will be appointed as follows:

(1) Three members by the President

(2) Four members by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives in consultation with the ranking minority committee member, and

(3) Four members by the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate in consultation with the ranking minority committee member.

c Each member is appointed for the life of the Commission.

d Any vacancy on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

e The chairman of the Commission shall be designated jointly by the Chairs of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate from among commission members.

f A majority of Commission members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Commission.

g Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA policies, will be followed in all appointments to the Commission. To ensure that the recommendations of the Commission have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups represented in production agriculture, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with the demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

4 DUTIES

The Commission's duties are to conduct the comprehensive reviews and develop specific legislative recommendations as provided in Section 183, Subtitle G, Pub. L. No. 104-127, and set forth in Section 1b of this charter. In carrying out these duties, the Commission may conduct hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence, as it deems appropriate. The Commission may also secure information directly from Federal agencies and departments as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

a Members shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for travel expenses and per them in accordance with USDA travel regulations for attendance at Commission functions.

b Estimated annual operating costs are \$50,000 for FY 1998, \$275,000 for FY 1999, \$350,000 for FY 2000, and \$150,000 for FY 2001 for staff and all operating expenses.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Commission shall meet on a regular basis, as determined by the Chairperson, and other meetings at the call of the Chairperson or a majority of members, estimated, in total, to be four to six times per year. All meetings will be open to the public and are subject to the advance approval of the designated Federal official.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

a As provided in section 184, subtitle G, Pub. L. No. 104-127, the Commission must, by June 1, 1998, submit a report of the initial comprehensive review (described in Section 183 (b)) to the President, to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. This report was published May 4, 1999.

b Not later than January 1, 2001, the Commission must submit a report of its subsequent review, including its specific legislative recommendations, to the President and the two congressional committees as set forth in 7a (above).

c Subject to the provisions of section 187 (b) and (c), subtitle G, Pub. L. No. 104127, the Office of the Chief Economist will provide liaison and support for the Commission.

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